



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson
Office of Communications

**2021 BICENTENNIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESS
GOVERNOR MICHAEL L. PARSON
“MISSOURI SHINES ON”**

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Good afternoon! Thank you everyone for being here today. Senator Schatz, thank you for the kind introduction.

I am honored to stand before you as the 57th Governor of the great State of Missouri.

I want to begin by thanking my wife Teresa, the First Lady, for her love and support through the years. She brings grace and class to this state, and I could not be more proud to call her my wife.

And my son Kelly, my daughter Stephanie, their spouses, and my six grandchildren. They are what life is all about. They make me a better person, and I love each and every one of them. I thank them for being part of my life.

I'm so grateful to also have my two brothers and the rest of my family here today.

And to the Members of the General Assembly, I want to thank you for your service. I look forward to working with you for the next four years.

To the former governors, thank you for being here as well, and thank you for your service to the people of Missouri.

I would also like to thank:

- The Missouri Supreme Court,
- Members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation,
- Members of the Cabinet,
- My staff,
- and distinguished guests.



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I also want to thank my fellow Missourians who have joined us here at the Capitol, and those watching at home. Thank you for sharing this special moment.

Almost 200 years ago, the great State of Missouri was established.

This year will mark the 200th anniversary of Missouri's entry as the 24th state in the United States. What a great year to celebrate Missouri and its history, along with all its people.

As I stand here before you, I am reminded of the hard work, passion, and love so many people have for Missouri.

The countless hours people have spent to provide a strong foundation that gives so many people hope and opportunity in their lives.

As we keep building upon this foundation, we will only get stronger.

This is why Missouri is a great place to live. Why so many people have invested their lives into making Missouri a place for everyone.

When I travel across Missouri, I meet so many different people ... but regardless of where we come from, we ALL want what's best for our families and our state.

From rural areas to the big cities, Missouri offers so much to so many ... and others want to come to Missouri because of our values, our hard work, and our common sense approach.

That is the Missouri I know. That is the Missouri I love! That's why I am confident in our future.

As we closed the chapter on 2020, we all had time to reflect. There were sad times, tough times, and exciting times. And through it all ... Missourians prevailed.

Despite the challenges, the heartbeat of our state continues to pump **STRONG!**

We have been faced with sacrifices, uncertainty, and tragedy ... but with each moment of darkness, there seems to return a tenfold of hope.

Missourians are **STRONG.**

Missourians are **COURAGEOUS.**

Missourians are **FAMILY.**

The spirit of our state is composed, positive, and uplifting ... it is alive, and it is well!



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As the leader of this state, it is my job to make life better for EVERY Missourian.

This State is more than my house. It is my HOME.

I will care for the unborn to the elderly, the rich to the poor ... REGARDLESS of the color of your skin.

I see each of you. I want the best for ALL of you.

It is a challenging yet incredible responsibility to lead this state.

With a great sense of duty, a thankful heart, and devotion to Missourians, I accept the position of Governor of the great state of Missouri.

Today, I have taken this oath with honor and pride.

I will serve ALL Missourians, and do everything I can to make your lives better.

I will continue working hard to give doctors and nurses the tools they need to care for Missourians.

I will continue working hard to give law enforcement officers the tools they need to keep Missourians safe.

I will continue working hard to give farmers the tools they need to succeed from sun up to sun down.

I will continue working hard to give teachers the tools they need to educate our children.

I will continue working hard each day for ALL Missourians ... and TOGETHER, we can move Missouri in a direction of hope and opportunity...

There's a spark of Missouri hope and courage born in all of us ... and what we do with it is up to us.

The work to be done is not up to me alone. It is shared by all of us.

We have seen some challenging days together ... but when it is hard to find the light, sometimes all you need is a spark to get the fire going again.

Even in the darkest times – Missouri shines on.



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Sunny days ARE ahead!

It is with your strong compassion, courage, and heart that I will lead ... and we will ALL succeed.

Hard working, God-fearing, decent folks. That's who we are.

THAT is Missouri!

I am humbled and honored by the trust you have placed in me to lead this great state.

Missourians, I tell you today ... that it is OUR time. It is OUR time to preserve the American dream!

It is an honor and privilege to be the 57th Governor of the State of Missouri.

God bless you, God bless the great State of Missouri, and God bless the United States of America!